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THE BARD
BY
GRAY

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Louisa Blanche Howard
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THE BARD.



THE BARD

BY GRAY

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

FROM DRAWINGS BY

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JOHN TALBOT



LONDON

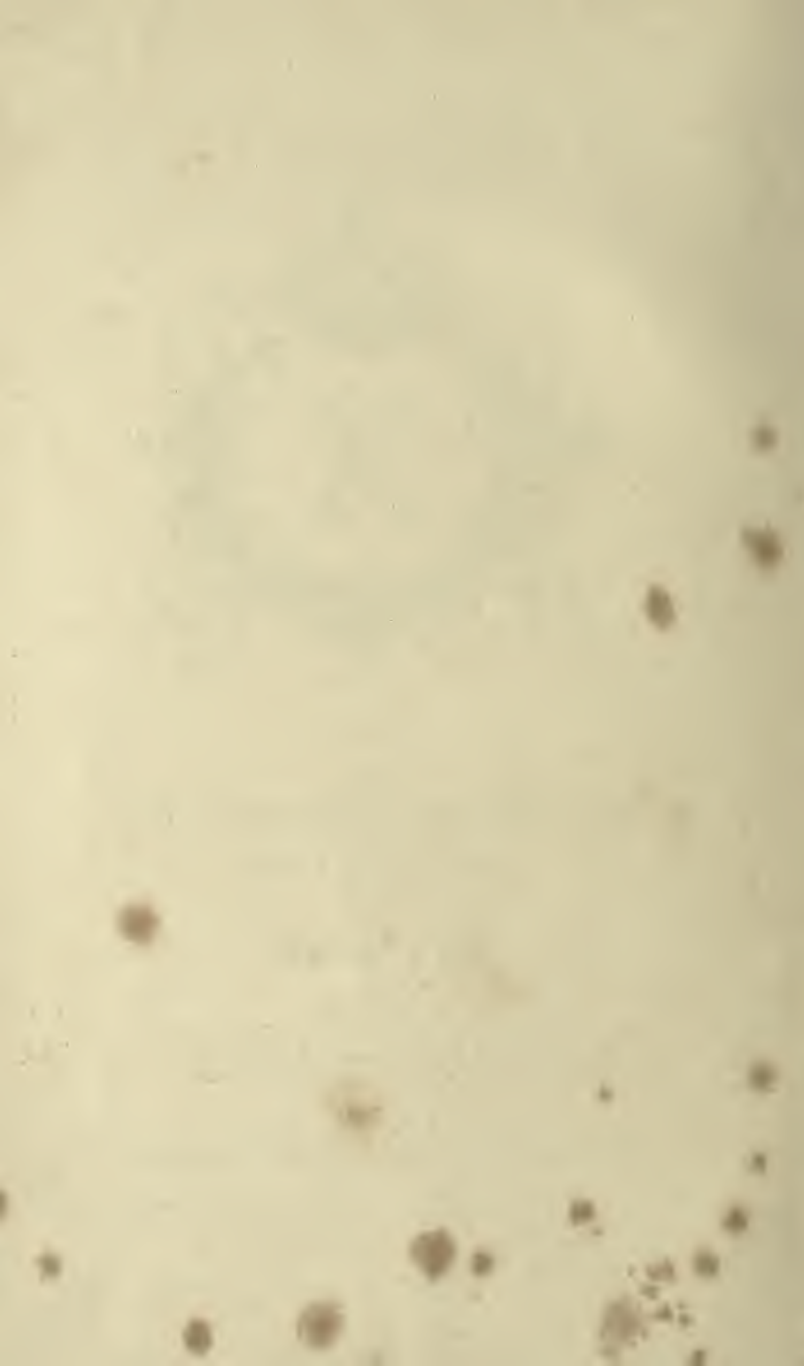
JOHN VAN VOORST, PATERNOSTER ROW

MDCCCXXXVII

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TO
THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
THIS ILLUSTRATED EDITION
OF
THE BARD
IS DEDICATED,
WITH HER MOST GRACIOUS PERMISSION,
BY
HER MAJESTY'S MOST HUMBLE AND DEVOTED SERVANT,
JOHN MARTIN.



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1837

THE favorable reception given to the edition of the Elegy of Gray, is the inducement for the following attempt to illustrate another of his celebrated poems; the designs for which have been most kindly contributed by Mrs. John Talbot.

To that lady the Editor's thanks are pre-eminently due for the kindness with which she acceded to the request; adding yet more to the debt of gratitude he owes to the noble family of which she is a member.

The designs were made on the wood itself by Mrs. Talbot, and are all original, except the copy of the Tragic Muse of Sir Joshua Reynolds, which seemed so apposite to the lines to which it is attached, as to forbid any attempt at original illustration.

Of a poem which still maintains its place "on every table and in every mouth" any observations would be superfluous. The greatest of English critics has long since pronounced our author to be one whom it "would be vain to blame and useless to praise."

J. M.

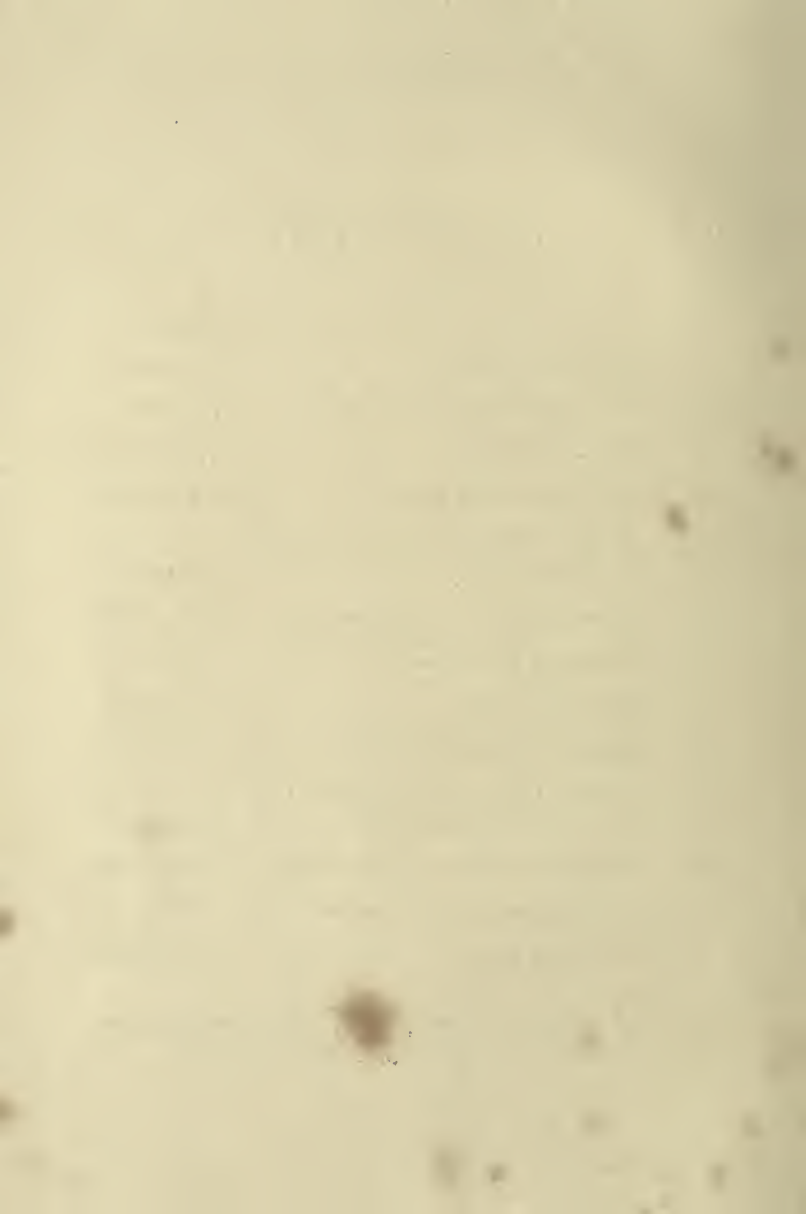


ILLUSTRATIONS.

ENGRAVED BY

	Vignette on Title-page	...	...	...	J. JACKSON.
1	King Edward arrested on his march	...			O. SMITH.
2	The Bard's Address	...	...	...	F. BRANSTON.
3	The Massacre of the Bards	...	...	...	J. THOMPSON.
4	Berkeley Castle, the scene of the murder of Edward II.	...	...	...	J. JACKSON.
5	Edward III. neglected, on his death-bed	...			J. THOMPSON.
6	Tomb of the Black Prince	...	...		O. SMITH.
7	Richard II. in prison	...	...	...	F. BRANSTON.
8	Henry VI. a prisoner in the Tower	...			S. WILLIAMS.
9	Waltham Cross, erected by Edward I. to the memory of Queen Eleanor			...	J. CLEGHORN.
10	Queen Elizabeth in her audience-chamber				J. THOMPSON.
11	The Tragic Muse, after Sir Joshua Reynolds				S. WILLIAMS.
12	Death of the Bard...	...	...	...	J. THOMPSON.

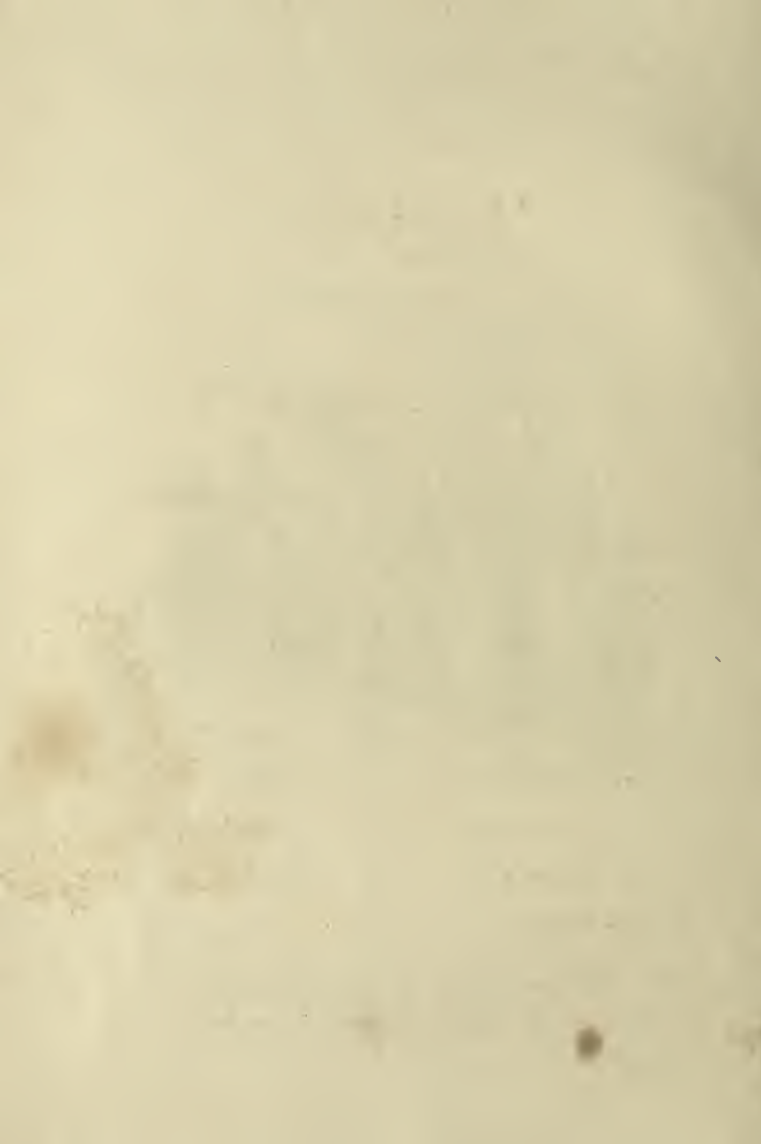
* * The design prefixed to the dedication, and the embellished capital letters, are from drawings obligingly contributed by Miss Moule.





1.


As down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy side
He wound with toilsome march his long array.



THE BARD.

A PINDARIC ODE.

I.

“  UIN seize thee, ruthless King !
Confusion on thy banners wait !
Though fanned by conquest's crimson wing,
They mock the air with idle state.
Helm, nor hauberk's twisted mail,
Nor e'en thy virtues, tyrant, shall avail
To save thy secret soul from nightly fears,
From Cambria's curse, from Cambria's tears !”
Such were the sounds, that o'er the crested pride
Of the first Edward scattered wild dismay,
As down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy side
He wound with toilsome march his long array.
Stout Glo'ster stood aghast in speechless trance :
“ To arms !” cried Mortimer, and couched his quiver-
ing lance.

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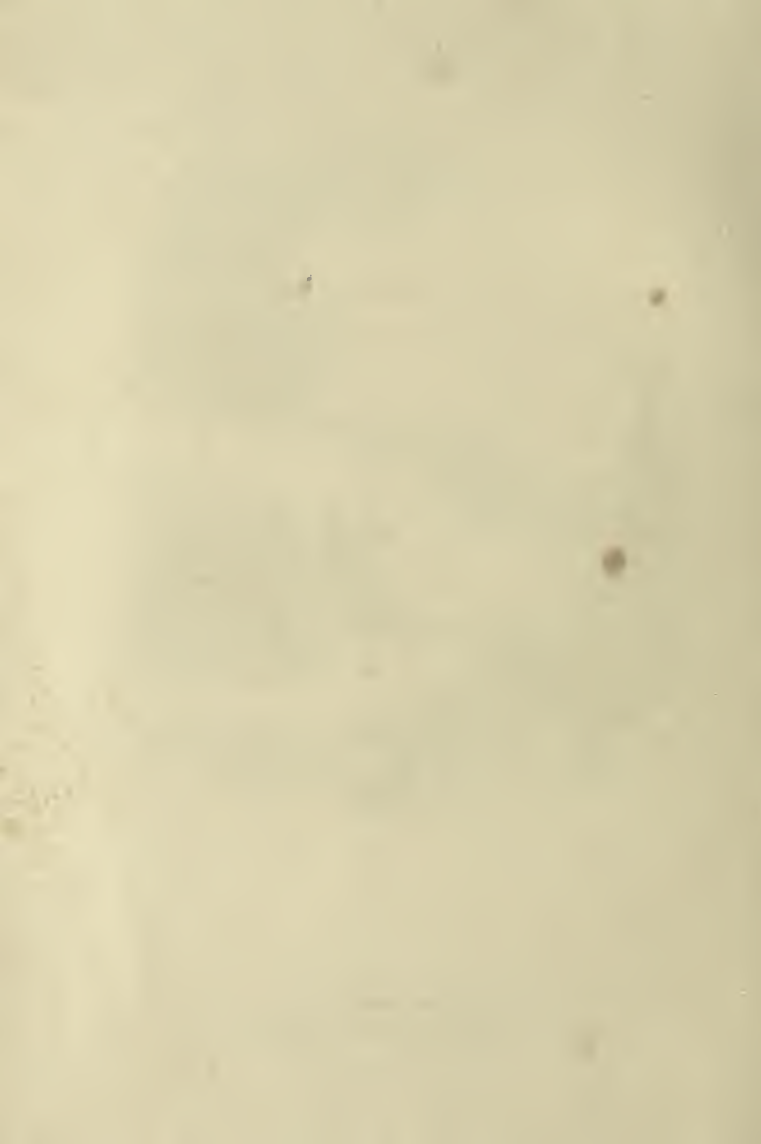
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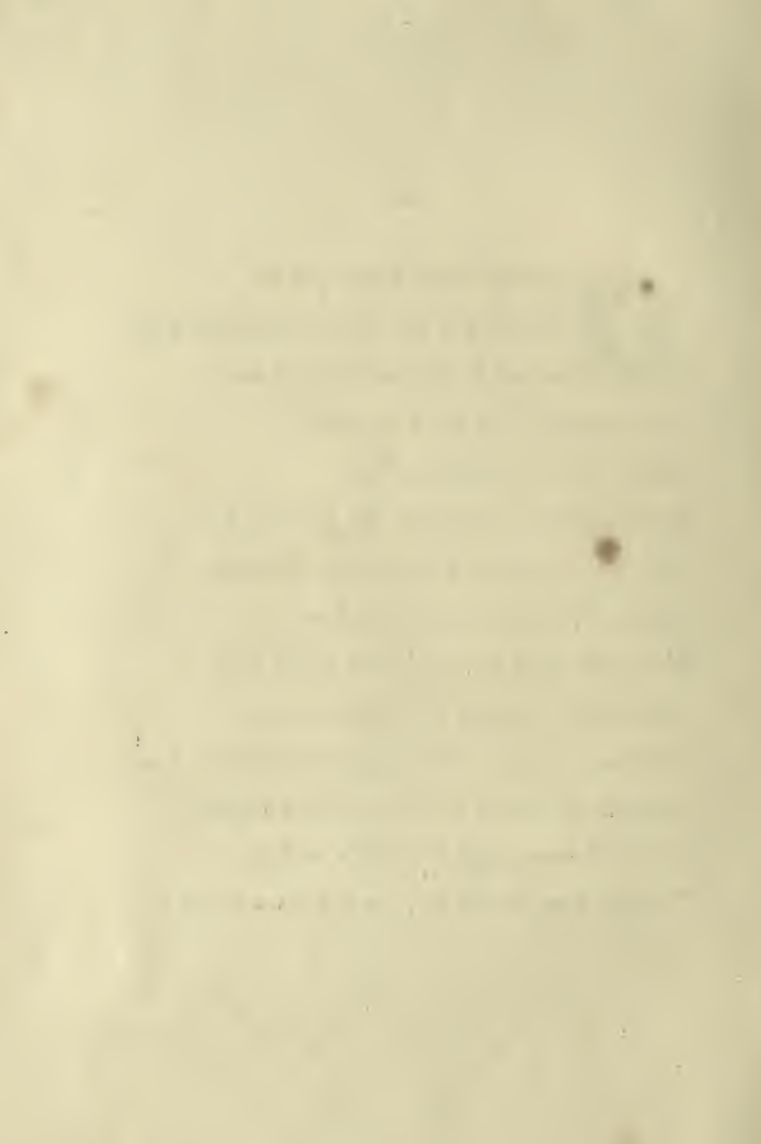
2.

On a rock, whose haughty brow
Frowns o'er old Conway's foaming flood,
the poet stood.





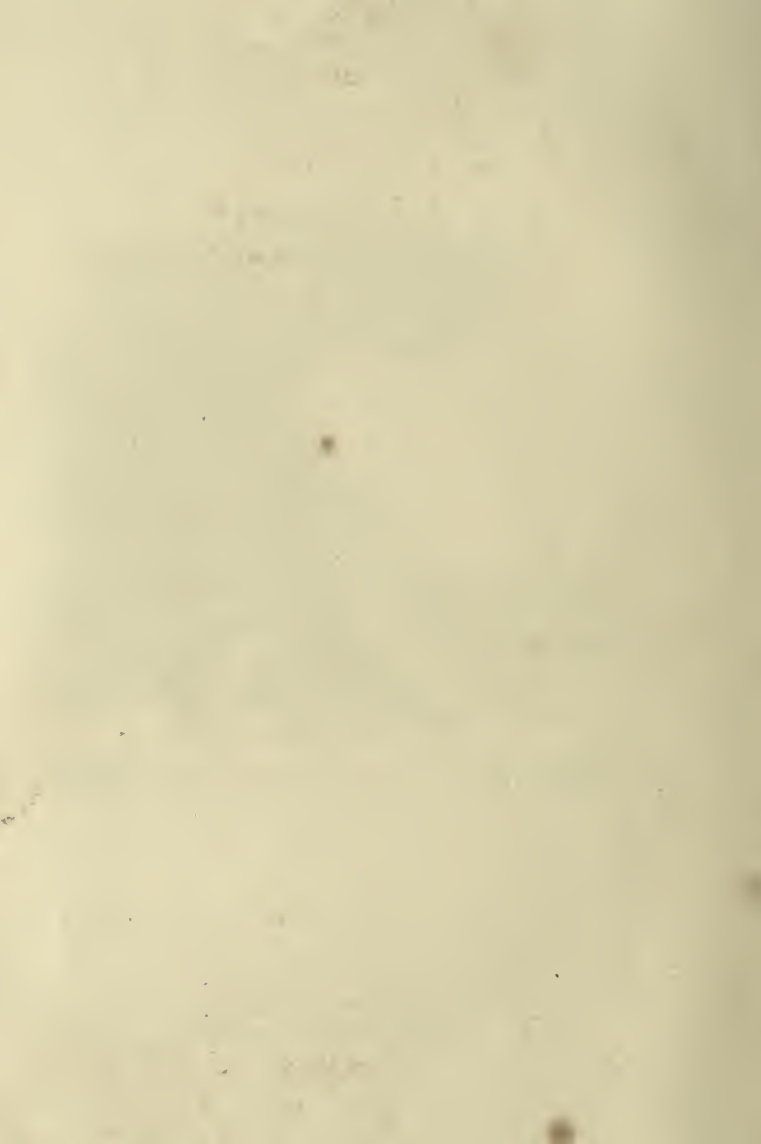
N a rock, whose haughty brow
 Frowns o'er old Conway's foaming flood,
 Robed in the sable garb of woe,
 With haggard eyes the Poet stood ;
 Loose his beard, and hoary hair
 Streamed, like a meteor, to the troubled air,
 And with a master's hand, and prophet's fire,
 Struck the deep sorrows of his lyre.
 “ Hark, how each giant-oak, and desert cave,
 Sighs to the torrent's awful voice beneath !
 O'er thee, oh king ! their hundred arms they wave,
 Revenge on thee in hoarser murmurs breathe ;
 Vocal no more, since Cambria's fatal day,
 To high-born Hoel's harp, or soft Llewellyn's lay.






3.

On dreary Arvon's shore they lie,
Smeared with gore, and ghastly pale.



“  OLD is Cadwallo's tongue,
That hushed the stormy main ;
Brave Urien sleeps upon his craggy bed :

Mountains, ye mourn in vain
Modred, whose magic song
Made huge Plinlimmon bow his cloud-topp'd head.

On dreary Arvon's shore they lie,
Smeared with gore, and ghastly pale :
Far, far aloof th' affrighted ravens sail :
The famished eagle screams, and passes by.

Dear lost companions of my tuneful art,
Dear, as the light that visits these sad eyes,
Dear, as the ruddy drops that warm my heart,
Ye died amidst your dying country's cries !

No more I weep. They do not sleep.

On yonder cliffs, a grisly band,
I see them sit, they linger yet !


Avengers of their native land :

With me in dreadful harmony they join,
And weave with bloody hands the tissue of thy line.



4.

Mark the year, and mark the night,
When Severn shall re-echo with affright
The shrieks of death, through Berkeley's roof that ring.

“  EAVE the warp, and weave the woof,
 The winding-sheet of Edward's race :
 Give ample room, and verge enough

The characters of Hell to trace.

Mark the year, and mark the night,

When Severn shall re-echo with affright

The shrieks of death, through Berkeley's roof that ring,

Shrieks of an agonizing king ;

She-wolf of France, with unrelenting fangs,

That tear'st the bowels of thy mangled mate,

From thee be born, who o'er thy country hangs

The scourge of Heaven. What terrors round him
 wait !

Amazement in his van, with Flight combin'd ;

And Sorrow's faded form, and Solitude behind.



5.


Mighty Victor, mighty Lord,
Low on his funeral couch he lies !



6.

Thy son is gone. He rests among the dead.



“  IGH TY Vietor, mighty Lord,
 Low on his funeral couch he lies !
 No pitying heart, no eye, afford
 A tear to grace his obsequies.
 Is the sable warrior fled ?
 Thy son is gone. He rests among the dead.
 The swarm, that in thy noon-tide beam were born ?
 Gone to salute the rising Morn.
 Fair laughs the Morn, and soft the Zephyr blows,
 While proudly riding o'er the azure realm
 In gallant trim the gilded vessel goes ;
 Youth on the prow, and Pleasure at the helm ;
 Regardless of the sweeping Whirlwind's sway,
 That, hush'd in grim repose, expects his evening-prey.



7.

Fell Thirst and Famine scowl
A baleful smile upon their baffled guest.



8.

Revere his consort's faith, his father's fame,
And spare the meek usurper's holy head.

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“ **F**ILL high the sparkling bowl,
 The rich repast prepare :
 Reft of a crown, he yet may share the feast:
 Close by the regal chair
 Fell Thirst and Famine scowl
 A baleful smile upon their baffled guest.
 Heard ye the din of battle bray,
 Lance to lance, and horse to horse ?
 Long years of havoc urge their destined course,
 And through the kindred squadrons mow their way.
 Ye towers of Julius, London’s lasting shame,
 With many a foul and midnight murder fed,
 Revere his consort’s faith, his father’s fame,
 And spare the meek usurper’s holy head.
 Above, below, the Rose of snow,
 Twined with her blushing foe we spread :
 The bristled Boar in infant gore
 Wallows beneath the thorny shade.
 Now, brothers, bending o’er th’ accursed loom,
 Stamp we our vengeance deep, and ratify his doom.



9.

Half of thy heart we consecrate.

VII.

“DWARD, lo ! to sudden fate
Weave we the woof. The thread is spun.
Half of thy heart we consecrate.

The web is wove. The work is done.

Stay, oh stay ! nor thus forlorn

Leave me unblessed, unpitied, here to mourn :

In yon bright track, that fires the western skies,

They melt, they vanish from my eyes.

But oh ! what solemn scenes on Snowdon's height

Descending slow their glittering skirts unroll ?

Visions of glory, spare my aching sight !

Ye unborn ages, crowd not on my soul !

No more our long-lost Arthur we bewail.

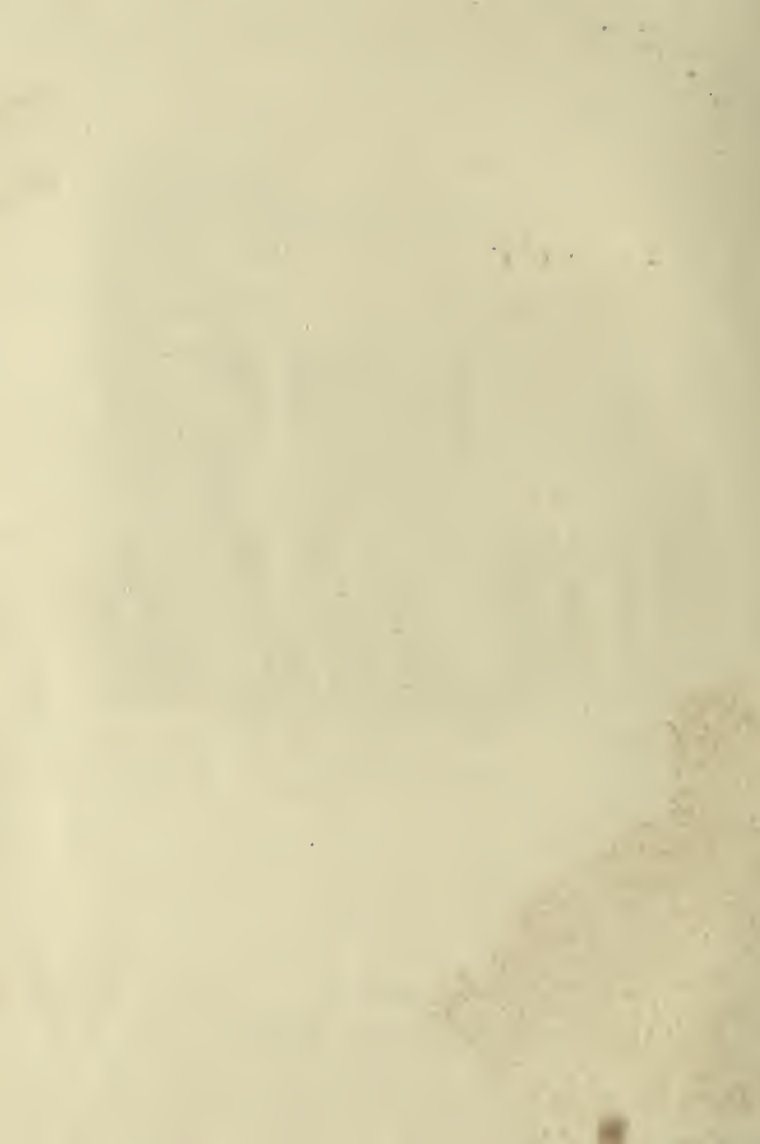
All-hail, ye genuine kings ! Britannia's issue, hail !




10.

In the midst a form divine!

Her eye proclaims her of the Briton-line.



VIII.

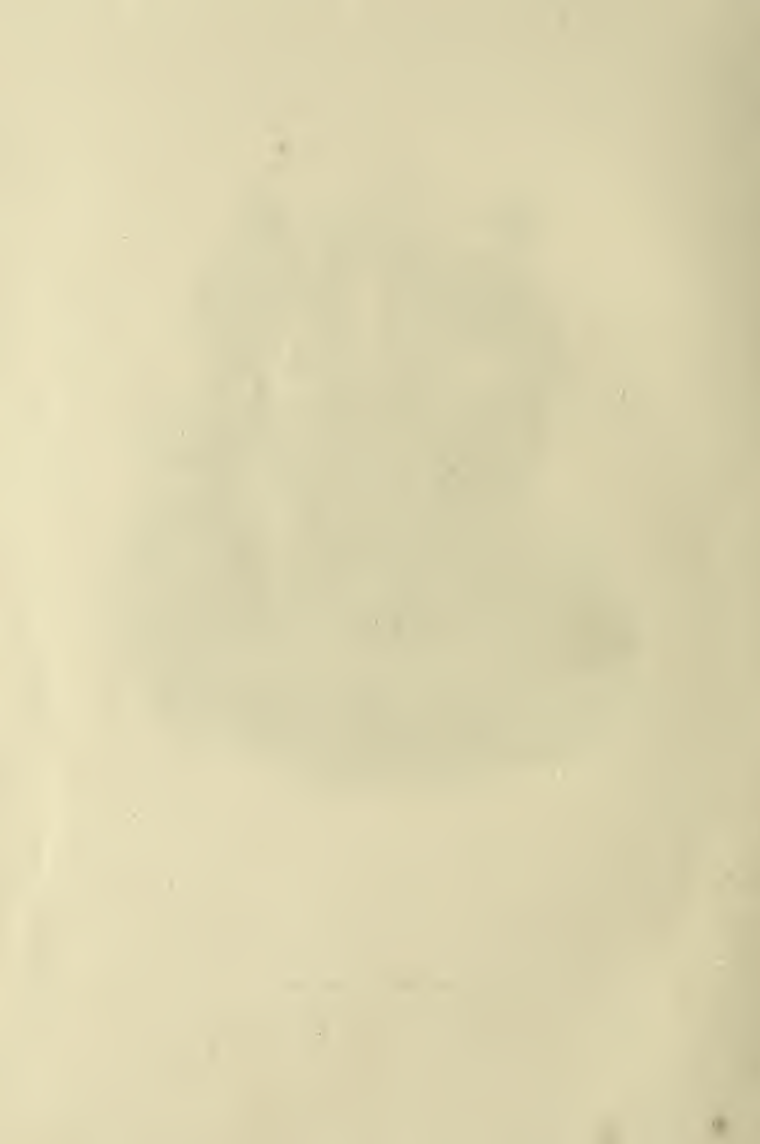
“IRT with many a baron bold
Sublime their starry fronts they rear ;
And gorgeous dames, and statesmen old,
In bearded majesty, appear.
In the midst a form divine !
Her eye proclaims her of the Briton-line ;
Her lion-port, her awe-commanding face,
Attempered sweet to virgin-grace.
What strings symphonious tremble in the air !
What strains of vocal transport round her play !
Hear from the grave, great Taliessin, hear ;
They breathe a soul to animate thy clay.
Bright Rapture calls, and soaring, as she sings,
Waves in the eye of Heaven her many-coloured wings.





11.

In buskined measures move
Pale Grief, and pleasing Pain.






12.

Headlong from the mountain's height
Deep in the roaring tide he plung'd to endless night.



“  HE verse adorn again
 Fierce War, and faithful Love,
 And Truth severe, by fairy Fiction drest.

In buskined measures move
 Pale Grief, and pleasing Pain,
 With Horror, tyrant of the throbbing breast.
 A voice, as of the cherub-choir,
 Gales from blooming Eden bear ;
 And distant warblings lessen on my ear,
 That lost in long futurity expire.
 Fond impious man, think'st thou, yon sanguine cloud,
 Raised by thy breath, has quenched the orb of day ?
 To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
 And warms the nations with redoubled ray.
 Enough for me : with joy I see
 The different doom our Fates assign.
 Be thine Despair, and sceptred Care :
 To triumph, and to die, are mine.”
 He spoke, and headlong from the mountain's height
 Deep in the roaring tide he plunged to endless night.



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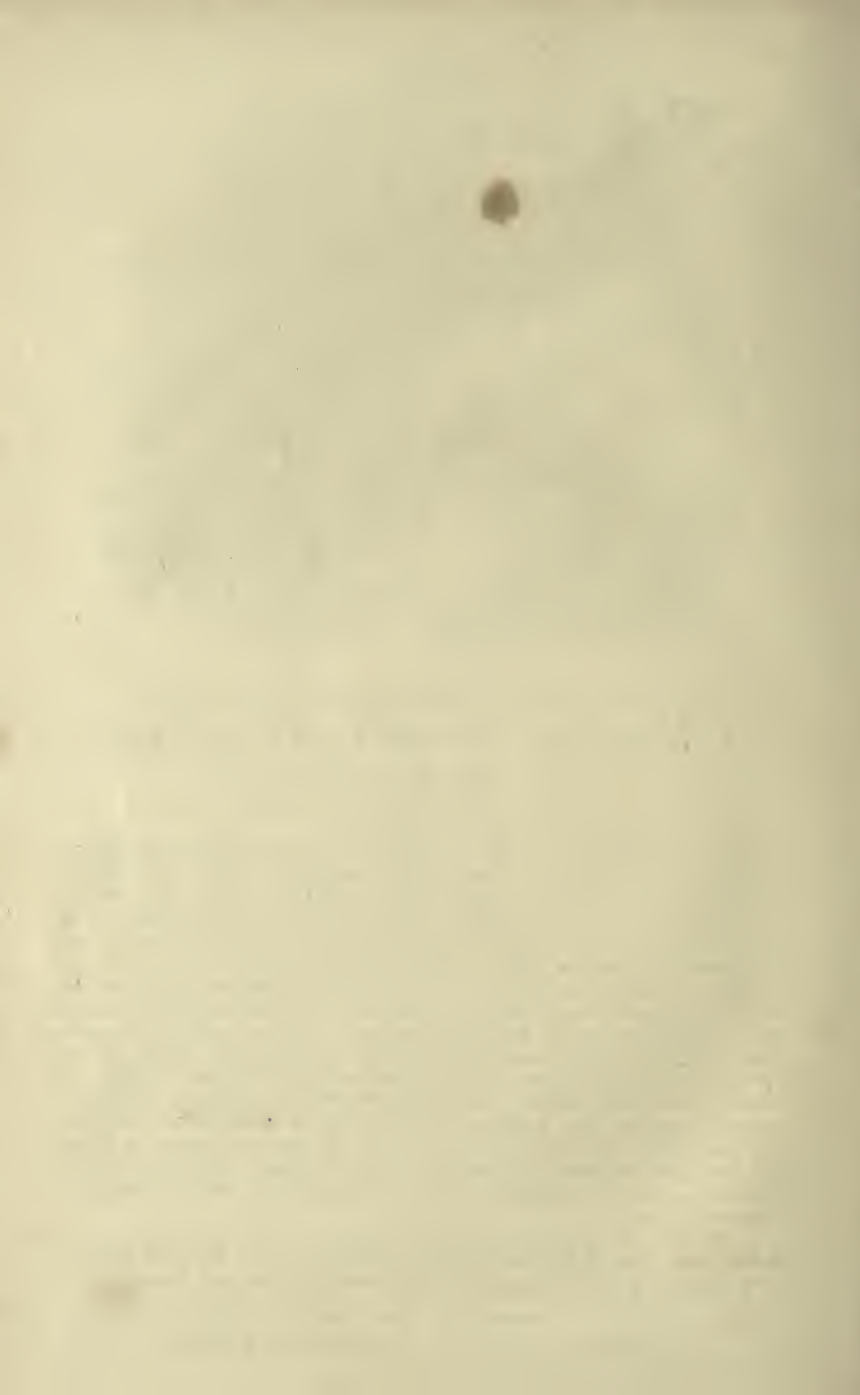
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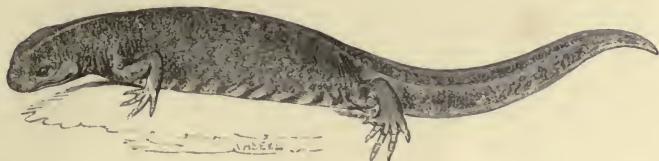
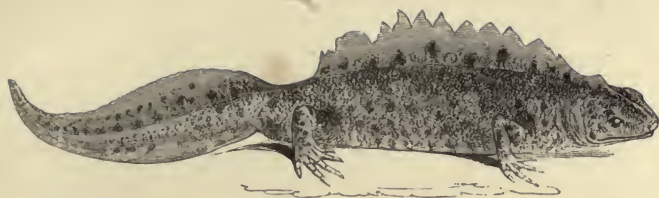
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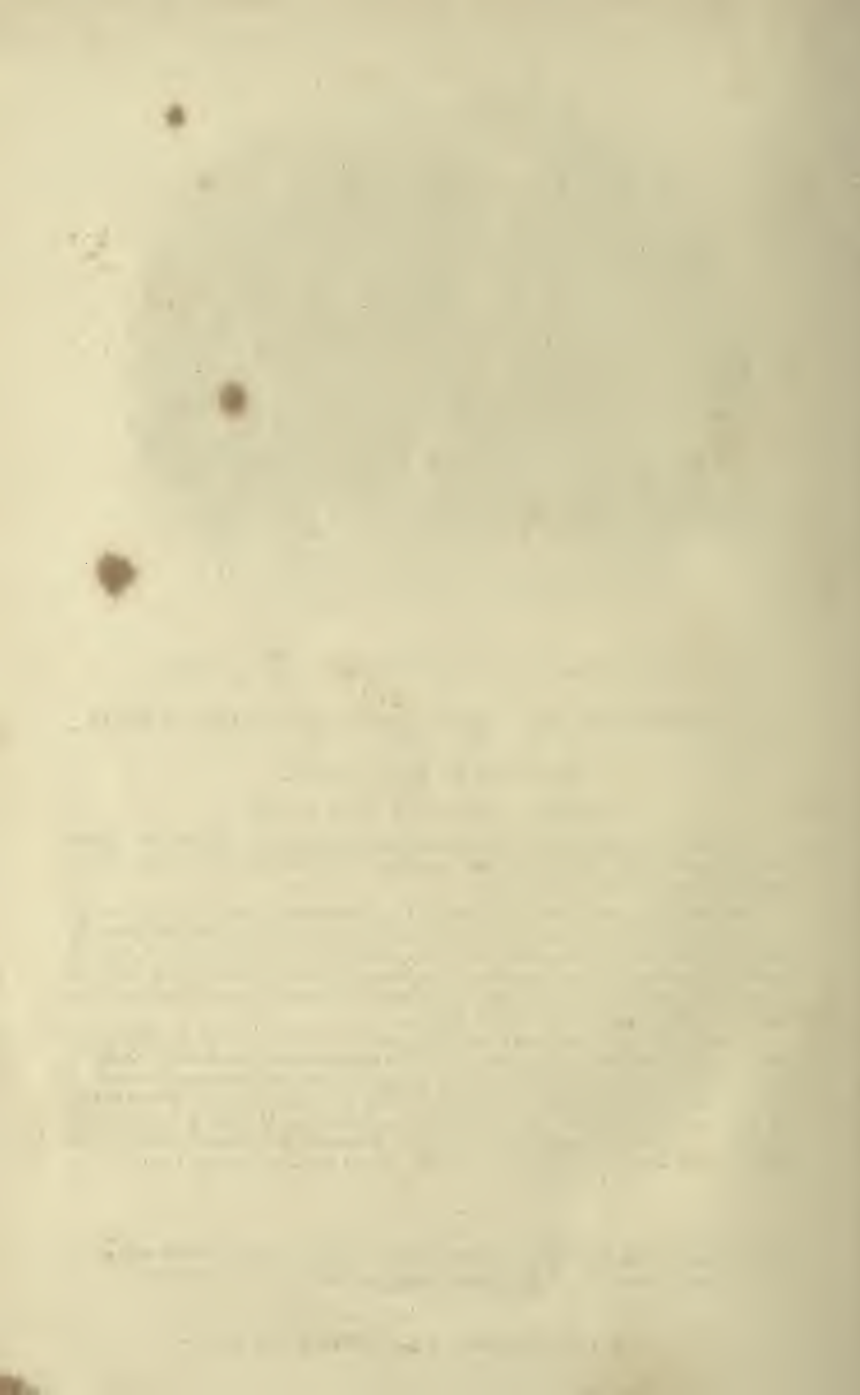
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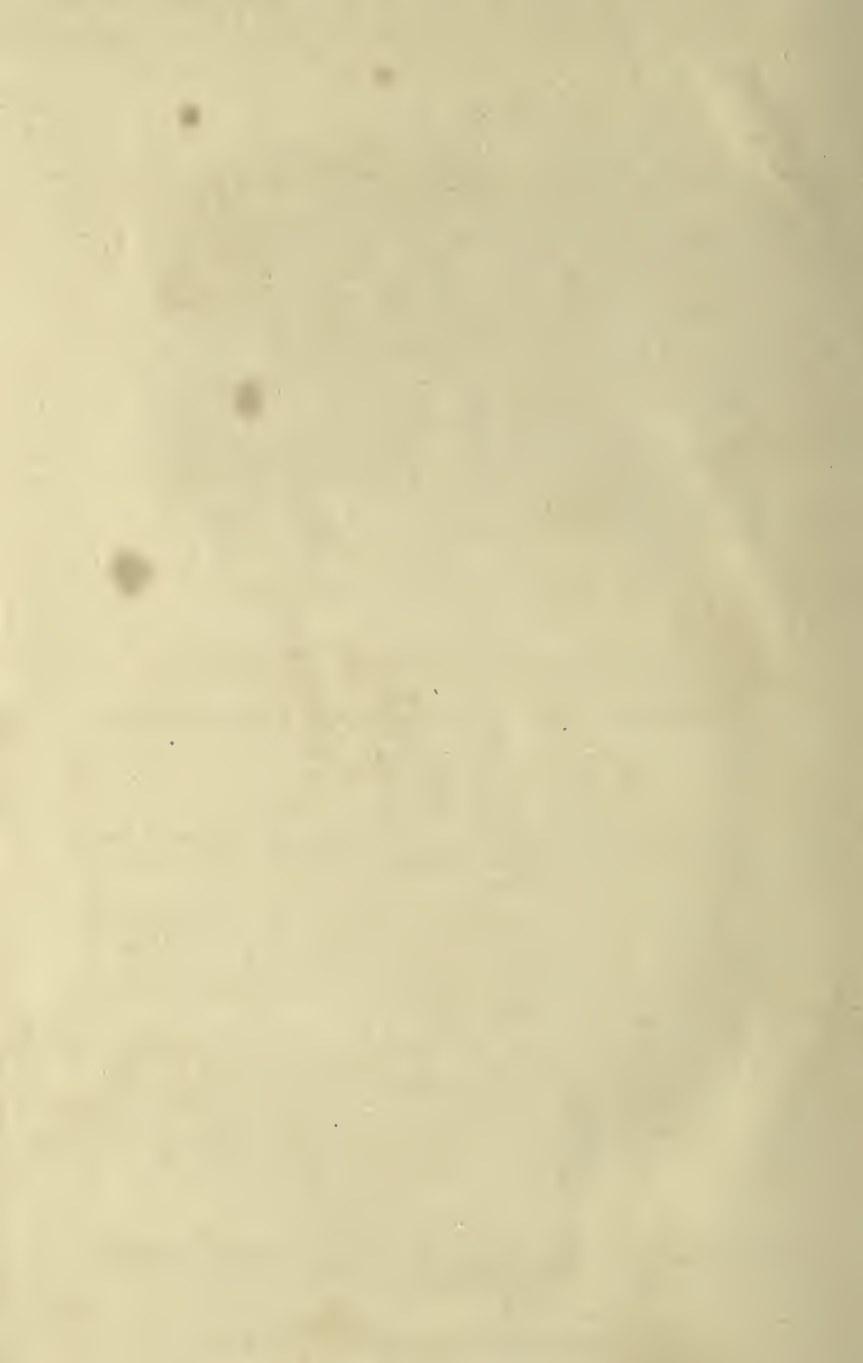
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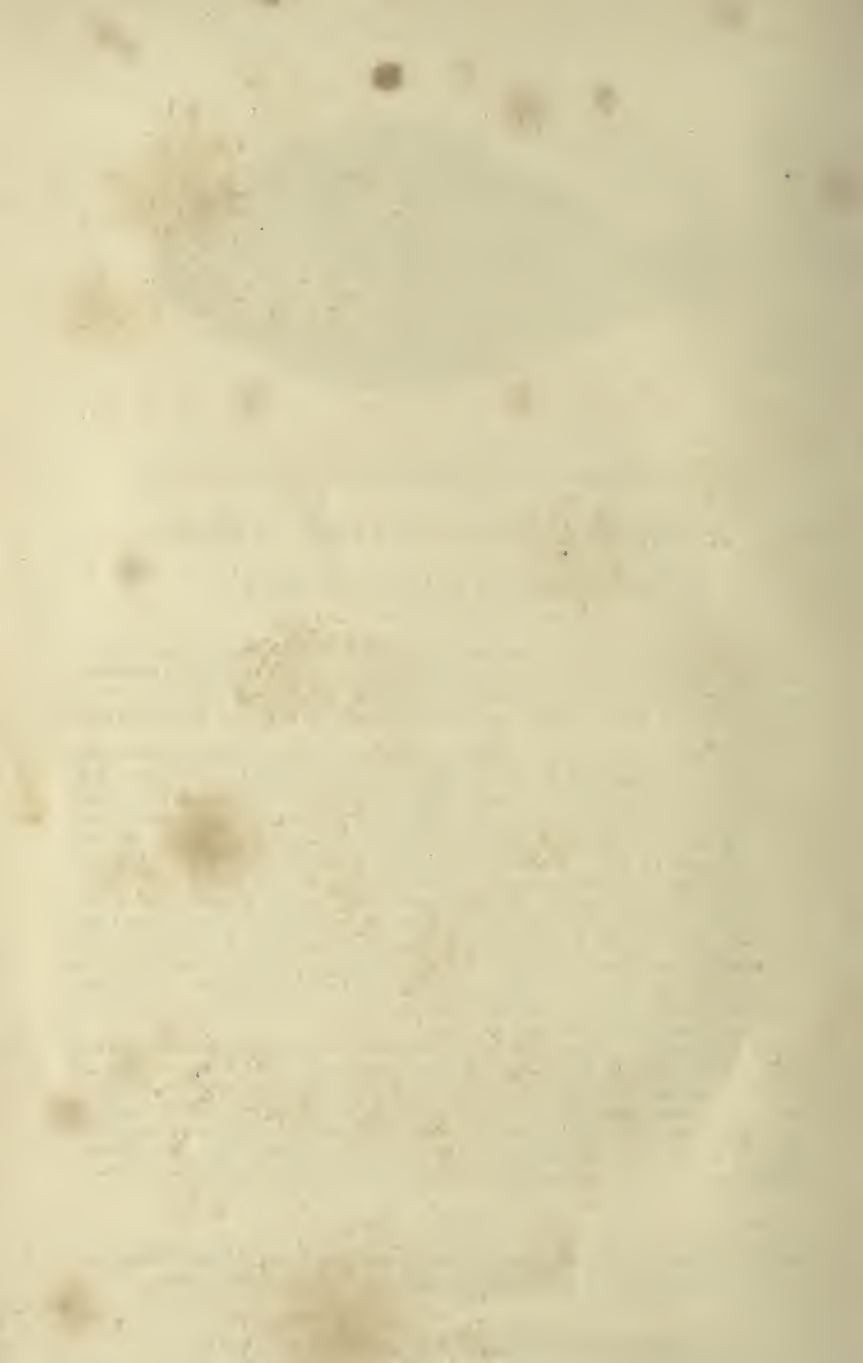
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